

MIDYEAR BOAT BUYER'S GUIDE

SPECIAL ISSUE

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Sea[®]

America's Western Boating Magazine



West Bay 58 Pilothouse

FLOATING A LOAN

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FIGHTING BACK

When San Juan County, Washington officials decided to impose the

nation's first all-out ban against the use of personal watercraft, they should have expected that not everyone would be pleased. Perhaps they underestimated just how displeased area watercraft riders, dealers and pleasureboaters who carry personal watercraft aboard larger boats would be.

While a county-wide ban on personal watercraft use had been heavily supported by waterfront homeowners who showed up at local meetings, the general public was not quite so enthusiastic. When riders started complaining that their right to reasonable water access had been violated and dealers began asking why their machines were singled out over just-as-noisy outboard runabouts and jet boats, the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) stepped in.

The NMMA filed a lawsuit, on behalf of the Personal Watercraft Industry Association, petitioning Whatcom County Superior Court to overturn San Juan County's general ban on personal watercraft use.

Plaintiffs in the NMMA lawsuit have attacked the ban on constitutional grounds, declaring that the Washington state constitution grants citizens the "right of free access to the waters of the state and use of navigable waters for travel and recreation." They also claim that state law prohibits "county-wide prohibitions of the type imposed by San Juan County."

Joining the two national groups as plaintiffs in the suit are John and Jami Pfarr, owners of Zzoomers II Wave Venture Tours in Friday Harbor, Washington; and Skagit Valley Yamaha/Kawasaki, which does business in the islands. Other plaintiffs include Washington residents who say they have been denied their rights to pleasure trips via personal watercraft in San Juan County.

San Juan County commissioners had enacted the ban on personal watercraft in all county waterways back in January. The ordinance went into effect on February 5, with a provision that it be reviewed at the end of two years.

Commissioners said they enacted the ban in response to island residents' complaints about on-the-water noise and perceived threats to wildlife. However, personal watercraft industry representatives say rider education programs would have been more appropriate.

—Jerry Sitser

Come Together for a Rendezvous

Instead of just rounding up your family for a getaway by yourselves this summer, why not meet up with hun-

dreds of others who share more than just your common love of boating — they also share your taste in brands of boats.

Several boat owners' clubs are sponsoring rendezvous for their members throughout the West Coast. In addition to meeting other boat owners, participants will have the opportunity to attend seminars, enjoy barbecues and parties and swap marine tips and information.

Here's a list of upcoming rendezvous scheduled this summer:

Washington's Port Orchard Marina will host a Tollycraft Rendezvous June 28-July 7. The event is sponsored by the Tollycraft Boating Club. Call Howard Glazer; (206) 672-4903.

A Chris-Craft Rendezvous is also set at Port Orchard Marina July 19-21, sponsored by Classic Yachts of Des Moines, Washington. Call (206) 824-1200.



Schock Boats Family Fishing Tournament

August 9-11, the marina will host the West Marine Trawler Fest. This event is an all-brand rendezvous for people who cruise in power boats and those who want to. Call Georgs Kolesnikovs; (416) 724-8521.

Grand Banks' owners will meet on California's Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta July 3-7 for a cruise to Mildred Island for various festivities. Call Dick Williams; (206) 479-8477.

A Camano Owners' Rendezvous is scheduled for July 6 at Telegraph Harbour Marina on Thetis Island in British Columbia. Call Camano Marine Ltd.; (604) 946-5352.

In Newport Beach, California, Schock Boats is sponsoring the 13th annual Schock Boats Family Fishing Tournament for Grady-White and Boston Whaler owners on July 27. Children's participation is encouraged and a portion of the proceeds will go to help clean up Newport Harbor. Call Schock Boats; (714) 673-2050.

Channel Islands Explorers Unite

While thousands of boaters visit Catalina every year, relatively few have ever stepped foot on the other seven islands that make up the California Channel Islands: Santa Catalina, Santa Cruz, San Miguel, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa and Anacapa; plus the restricted, military-controlled San Clemente and San Nicolas islands.

But over the last year and a half, 36 people have been recognized for doing the unusual — setting foot on all eight islands. Since the beginning of last year, the Santa Cruz Island Foundation

has been searching for boaters who have spent time on all the Channel Islands.

"So far, the number is less than we expected, but it makes us realize how special it is to have visited all eight," said foundation spokeswoman Lauri Kelly. "With so much boating around the islands, it is surprising that more people have not actually been on them."

Those who can provide proof — with photographs or witnesses — are eligible for membership in the foundation's new All Eight Club. Members receive a club



baseball hat and a membership registration certificate.

For details, call the Foundation at (805) 963-4949.

— Erin McNiff